

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I write to comment urgently on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In promoting its supposed goals of fair competition, diversity and local voice in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should RETAIN ALL OF THE MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES NOW IN EFFECT. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of large media conglomerates and ensuring a diversity of voices and players in the broadcast industry.

The studies commissioned by the FCC do not begin to accurately demonstrate, nor do they attempt to investigate, the negative effects that media deregulation and consolidation have had on the diversity of our media. While there may indeed be more sources of media in crude numbers today than ever before, the spectrum of views presented has been severely limited.

The right to conduct informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was renewed in the marketplace of diverse ideas. If the FCC permits U.S. broadcast media outlets to further merge and consolidate, our ability to have an open, informed discussion from a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

I urge the FCC to preserve the public interest by KEEPING THE CURRENT MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES INTACT, and indeed STRENGTHENING them to return to the state that existed prior to the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February of 2003. However, one meeting is entirely inadequate. I strongly urge the Commission to hold similar hearings in ALL parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public. When questions as profound as the freedom of our media are at stake, it is unconscionable not to create a truly inclusive process to get citizen input, especially as the airwaves are the public's property, not that of the licensees.

I urge the Commissioners to make a concerted effort to listen to the people who do not have a financial interest in this issue, but rather a social interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is important that the Commission take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you for your serious consideration of my concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

Daniel Jaffee